

**REMARKS/ELECTION**

The Examiner has required an election from among the following four groups of claims:

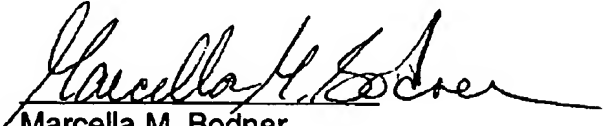
- Group I: (Claims 1-2 and 5-6) - directed to a catalyst product;
- Group II: (Claims 3-4 and 7) - directed to a process for preparing a catalyst;
- Group III: (Claims 8-9) - directed to a process for preparing a carboxylic acid;
- and
- Group IV: (Claims 10-11) - directed to a process for preparing nitriles.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group II (i.e., Claims 3-4 and 7), directed to a process for preparing a catalyst. It is understood that Applicants retain the right to file one or more divisional U.S. patent applications directed to the claims of the non-elected groups (i.e., Groups I, III and IV) at any time during the pendency of the present application. Moreover, Applicants hereby reserve the right to petition for rejoinder of the claims of one or more of the non-elected Groups, pursuant to MPEP § 806.05.

In view of the foregoing election and comments, Applicants respectfully request that the present application, including elected Claims 3-4 and 7, now be examined on the merits.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with the submission of this Election. If, however, any such fees are due, including extension and petition fees, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge them to **Deposit Account No. 18-1850**.

Respectfully submitted,



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